

Green Homes Sheffield - Invitation to host an Open Home event

We'd like to invite you to consider opening your home to the public to enable other households to learn from the energy saving improvements you've made. If you've made a good start on the path to a low carbon home, your story could help and inspire others to make changes themselves, and we hope you'll enjoy sharing it.

About our organisation

Green Homes Sheffield – a network to help you www.greenhomessheffield.net

Green Homes Sheffield is a new way of helping people to make their home more comfortable and more energy efficient. Our network brings together people who want to reduce their carbon footprint and their energy bills, with people who have already made the first moves, and trusted companies who helped them do it. We organise Open Homes events where the public can see how other people's homes have been upgraded, and ask the householders about their experience and how it all works. We plan to have a range of different houses and flats available, showing off their insulation, draught-proofing, solar panels, heat pumps, windows and energy-efficient extensions (see below for more details). Our events will also provide information about local builders and installers who offer energy-saving measures. We have received funding from Green Open Homes, which is a national network aiming to support low carbon retrofit through low-carbon open homes events.

Contact: jenny.patient@regather.net or 07760 174 335

What does being an Open Home host involve?

- You choose two (or more) days from Events 1 to 4 during April and May 2014 to open your home (plus hopefully you can join in with one of our Practice Openings too).
- We provide lots of information and support about how to prepare, visit you to make sure everything is set up safely, and ensure necessary insurance is in place.
- You provide information to us about what energy improvements you've made and how.
- We publicise your home as part of our Open Homes programme and enable the public to book visits on your chosen days using Eventbrite
- You tell us if you need a volunteer to help with your open days and we recruit and train them and provide their travel expenses.
- We provide postcards so you can invite your neighbours, signs to help visitors find your home, information leaflets relevant to your home, and a small sub towards biscuits.
- On your selected days, you show people round the energy improvements in your home and tell them your story - they may have questions about which companies and technologies you used, and what it was like before, during and after the changes.
- Everyone learns from the experience, and more people in Sheffield start saving energy at home!

Find out more at www.greenopenhomes.net - the national website where your open home will be publicised - with videos and fact sheets to explain how it all works.

Which dates can I open my home?

Please choose at least two days from Events 1 to 4 - these can be part of the same event or spread over more than one event. (You can open for all of every Event if you wish!) Let us know whether you can also open for a couple of hours during the Practice Openings - this will enable you to work with your volunteer and practice your tour with a small invited audience of other hosts and volunteers, to build up everyone's confidence.

Practice Openings for hosts and volunteers (weekend) - Sat 22nd and Sun 23rd March 11am-5pm
Event 1 (weekend) - Sat 12th and Sun 13th April 11am - 5pm
Event 2 - midweek in school hols - Weds 23rd and Thur 24th April 11am-5pm
Event 3 - May Day Bank Hol weekend - coincides with 'Open Up' (art studios) Sheffield - Sat 3rd , Sun 4th and Mon 5th May 11am - 5pm
Event 4 - including evening opening with option to open to Sheffield Friday Night Bike Ride http://www.sfnr.org.uk/ - Fri 16th 4pm-10pm and Sat 17th and Sun 18th May 11am-5pm

What kind of energy improvements are included?

We'd be interested in homes that have taken some steps towards being low carbon, and made improvements in an environmentally low-impact way. If you can show that you have really reduced your footprint, that's great, but we think that all levels of achievement can help to inspire others, so there is no minimum energy-saving.

Your improvements could include:

- systematic draught-proofing and achieving controlled ventilation of your home
- implementing low-cost and no-cost measures and energy management and tracking the impact on your energy use
- upgrading your windows and doors by replacement or retrofitting/renovating
- installing insulation in your roof, walls and floors
- building an extension or attic conversion (or a whole house!) to an excellent energy and environmental standard
- installing renewable heat and/or power - e.g. solar water heating, a heat pump or hybrid system, solar electricity, using passive solar techniques
- work done by an architect, a contracted builder, or on a DIY basis
- improvements that demonstrate the use of materials with low embodied energy, and recycled/reused materials, and water-saving approaches.

How do I apply?

- Please complete our online form and email jenny.patient@regather.net to say you have submitted details.
- Email, ring or text Jenny on 07760 174 335 if you have any other questions.
- We look forward to hearing from you!